

IN THE CLAIMS:

In accordance with the Revised Rules under 37 C.F.R. 1.121, please amend the claims as shown below and indicated as “currently amended.” Also shown below are claims that may be indicated as original, previously amended, cancelled, withdrawn, previously added, new, reinstated, previously reinstated, re-presented, or allowed. In accordance with the Rules, the text of cancelled or withdrawn claims need not be presented.

Please cancel claims 1-10, 17-18, 34-36, 57-58, 62, and 66-69 without prejudice. Claims 51 and 70-71 were cancelled by previous amendment.

Claims 1-10 (cancelled)

11. (currently amended) One or more stackable line hangers, first and second ones of the hangers being configured to secure first and second lines, respectively, to a supporting structure, each hanger comprising:

a line retention section for accommodating a line, the line retention section including first and second legs extending therefrom, the first and second legs allowing the hanger to accommodate various sizes of lines, the first and second legs each including a locking barb configured to lock against an attachment surface; and

a mounting section extending from the line retention section, the mounting section including a mounting opening disposed therein;

a compliant area disposed between the retention section and the mounting section and configured to allow the first and second legs to be compressed toward each other and to expand away from each other by spring force;

wherein the line retention section and the mounting section are arranged to dampen line vibration, and ~~The line hanger of claim 10,~~ wherein expansion of the first and second legs away from each other brings the first and second legs into contact with a wall that defines an aperture of the attachment surface once the locking barb is inserted through the aperture.

12. (currently amended) One or more stackable line hangers, first and second ones of the hangers being configured to secure first and second lines, respectively, to a supporting structure, each hanger comprising:

a line retention section for accommodating a line, the line retention section including first and second legs extending therefrom, the first and second legs allowing the hanger to accommodate various sizes of lines, the first and second legs each including a locking barb configured to lock against an attachment surface;

~~The line hanger of claim 1, wherein the first and second legs including include~~ respective first and second spring fingers flexibly connected to and projecting inwardly from the respective first and second legs, the first and second spring fingers being configured to retain the line; and

a mounting section extending from the line retention section, the mounting section including a mounting opening disposed therein;

wherein the line retention section and the mounting section are arranged to dampen line vibration.

13. (previously presented) The line hanger of claim 12, wherein each spring finger penetrates into the line to minimize longitudinal movement of the line with respect to the hanger.

14. (previously presented) The line hanger of claim 12, wherein the first and second legs include a first and second curved member, respectively.

15. (previously presented) The line hanger of claim 14, wherein the first and second spring fingers are located on the first and second curved members respectively.

16. (currently amended) One or more stackable line hangers, first and second ones of the hangers being configured to secure first and second lines, respectively, to a supporting structure, each hanger comprising:

a line retention section for accommodating a line, the line retention section including first and second legs extending therefrom, the first and second legs allowing the hanger to accommodate various sizes of lines, the first and second legs each including a locking barb configured to lock against an attachment surface;

~~The line hanger of claim 1, wherein the retention section further including includes~~ opposing first and second areas of resistance; and

a mounting section extending from the line retention section, the mounting section including a mounting opening disposed therein;

wherein the line retention section and the mounting section are arranged to dampen line vibration..

Claims 17-18 (cancelled)

19. (currently amended) One or more stackable line hangers, first and second ones of the hangers being configured to secure first and second lines, respectively, to a supporting structure, each hanger comprising:

a line retention section for accommodating a line, the line retention section including first and second legs extending therefrom, the first and second legs allowing the hanger to accommodate various sizes of lines, the first and second legs each including a locking barb configured to lock against an attachment surface;

The line hanger of claim 1, wherein the retention section including includes a pair of opposing line stops connected thereto and projecting inwardly therefrom for inhibiting the line from moving into the mounting section; and

a mounting section extending from the line retention section, the mounting section including a mounting opening disposed therein;

wherein the line retention section and the mounting section are arranged to dampen line vibration.

20. (previously presented) The line hanger of claim 19, wherein the opposing stops extend inwardly in a generally straight line from the first and second legs.

21. (previously presented) The line hanger of claim 19, wherein the opposing stops are generally concave to match a curvature of the line.

22. (currently amended) One or more stackable line hangers, first and second ones of the hangers being configured to secure first and second lines, respectively, to a supporting structure, each hanger comprising:

a line retention section for accommodating a line, the line retention section including first and second legs extending therefrom, the first and second legs allowing the hanger to

accommodate various sizes of lines, the first and second legs each including a locking barb configured to lock against an attachment surface;

~~The line hanger of claim 1, wherein~~ the first and second legs ~~arms~~ each include a pair of stop arms extending downwardly at an angle to engage a top of the attachment surface; and

a mounting section extending from the line retention section, the mounting section including a mounting opening disposed therein;

wherein the line retention section and the mounting section are arranged to dampen line vibration.

23. (previously presented) The line hanger of claim 22, wherein the stop arms further include a side wall that extends generally orthogonal to the first and second legs.

24. (currently amended) One or more stackable line hangers, first and second ones of the hangers being configured to secure first and second lines, respectively, to a supporting structure, each hanger comprising:

a line retention section for accommodating a line, the line retention section including first and second legs extending therefrom, the first and second legs allowing the hanger to accommodate various sizes of lines, the first and second legs each including a locking barb configured to lock against an attachment surface;

~~The line hanger of claim 1, wherein~~ the line retention section being is adapted to pivot relative to the mounting section, such that the line hanger can dampen line vibration; and

a mounting section extending from the line retention section, the mounting section including a mounting opening disposed therein;

wherein the line retention section and the mounting section are arranged to dampen line vibration.

25. (previously presented) The line hanger of claim 24, wherein the line retention section is constructed of a flexible material, enabling the line retention section to pivot relative to the mounting section.

26. (previously presented) A method for securing one or more lines to a supporting structure comprising:

providing one or more stackable line hangers each including a line retention section for accommodating a line, the line retention section including first and second legs extending therefrom, the first and second legs allowing the hanger to accommodate various sizes of lines, the first and second legs each including a locking barb configured to lock against an attachment surface having an aperture disposed therein, and a mounting section extending from the line retention section, the mounting section including a mounting opening disposed therein, wherein the retention section and the mounting section are arranged to dampen vibration of the line;

placing the retention section around the line;

inserting the locking barb through the aperture; and

locking the locking barb against the attachment surface.

27. (original) The method of claim 26, wherein the step of locking the locking barb includes locking the locking barb against the supporting surface.

28. (previously presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the step of inserting the locking barb comprises inserting the locking barb through the mounting opening of another of the stackable line hangers and the step of locking the locking barb includes locking the locking barb against the mounting surface of another stackable line hanger.

29. (previously presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the locking barb of another stackable line hanger including a notch, and wherein the method includes locking a notch of the locking barb of another stackable line hanger against a lip of a wall defining the mounting opening once the locking barb is inserted through the mounting opening.

30. (original) The method of claim 26, further including pressing the first and second legs toward each other to enable the locking barb to fit through the aperture.

31. (original) The method of claim 30, further including releasing the first and second legs such that they expand away from each other and bring the first and second legs into contact with a wall defining the aperture once the locking barb is inserted through the aperture.

32. (previously presented) The method of claim 26, further including penetrating spring fingers of the first and second legs, respectively, into the line to minimize longitudinal movement of the line with respect to the hanger.

33. (previously presented) One or more stackable line hangers, first and second ones of the hangers being configured to secure first and second lines, respectively, to a supporting structure, each hanger comprising:

a line retention section for accommodating a line, the line retention section including first and second legs extending therefrom, the first and second legs allowing the hanger to accommodate various sizes of lines, the first and second legs each including a locking barb configured to lock against an attachment surface; and

a mounting section extending from the line retention section, the mounting section including a mounting opening disposed therein;

wherein the locking barb includes a folded over rib and is configured to lock against the mounting section of the first hanger once the locking barb is inserted through the mounting opening of the mounting section of the first hanger.

Claims 34-36 (cancelled)

37. (previously presented) One or more stackable line hangers, first and second ones of the hangers being configured to secure first and second lines, respectively, to a supporting structure, each hanger comprising:

a line retention section for accommodating a line, the line retention section including first and second legs extending therefrom, the first and second legs allowing the hanger to accommodate various sizes of lines, the first and second legs each including a locking barb configured to lock against an attachment surface, wherein the retention section further includes respective first and second curved portions, the first and second curved portions including respective first and second spring fingers flexibly connected to and projecting inwardly from the respective first and second legs, the first and second spring fingers being configured to retain the line; and

a mounting section extending from the line retention section, the mounting section including a mounting opening disposed therein.

38. (previously presented) One or more stackable line hangers, first and second ones of the hangers being configured to secure first and second lines, respectively, to a supporting structure, each hanger comprising:

a line retention section for accommodating a line, the line retention section including first and second legs extending therefrom, the first and second legs allowing the hanger to accommodate various sizes of lines, the first and second legs each including a locking barb configured to lock against an attachment surface, wherein the retention section includes a pair of opposing line stops connected thereto and projecting inwardly and in a generally straight line therefrom; and

a mounting section extending from the line retention section, the mounting section including a mounting opening disposed therein,

wherein the opposing line stops are configured to inhibit line movement into the mounting section.

39. (previously presented) A method for securing one or more lines to a supporting structure comprising:

providing one or more stackable line hangers each including a line retention section for accommodating a line, the line retention section including first and second legs extending therefrom, the first and second legs allowing the hanger to accommodate various sizes of lines, the first and second legs each including a locking barb configured to lock against an attachment surface having an aperture disposed therein, and a mounting section extending from the line retention section, the mounting section including a mounting opening disposed therein;

placing the retention section around the line;

penetrating first and second spring fingers of the first and second legs, respectively, into the line to minimize longitudinal movement of the line with respect to the hanger, wherein the first and second spring fingers are flexibly connected to and projecting inwardly from the respective first and second legs;

penetrating first and second opposing line stops of the first and second legs, respectively, into the line to minimize longitudinal movement of the line with respect to the hanger, wherein the first and second opposing line stops are flexibly connected to and projecting inwardly from the respective first and second legs;

inserting the locking barb through the aperture; and

locking the locking barb against the attachment surface.

40. (previously presented) A stackable line hanger being composed of a resilient material and having a generally U-shaped body with arms which grip a line, distal ends of the arms being structured to be urged toward each other and to lock into a common opening in a line support or another line hanger, the hanger having a stacking provision located in a region where said arms are joined and configured to retentively engage a second hanger supporting a second line.

41. (previously presented) The apparatus defined by claim 40, wherein the distal ends of the arms have barbs which are adapted to snap lock into different peripheral areas of said common opening, and wherein the stacking provision comprises an opening.

42. (previously presented) The apparatus defined by claim 41, wherein the opening in said hanger is an aperture with a circular or other curved boundary formed in said U-shaped body.

43. (original) The apparatus defined by claim 42, wherein the aperture has a stiffening flange.

44. (previously presented) The apparatus defined by claim 42, wherein the distal ends of the arms have barbs with a cross-sectional curvature substantially matching a curvature of the boundary along an area of engagement with the aperture.

45. (previously presented) A stack of line hangers comprising:
a first stackable line hanger being composed of a resilient material and having a generally U-shaped body with arms which grip a line, distal ends of which arms being structured to be urged toward each other and to lock into a common opening in a line support or another line hanger, the hanger having a stacking provision; and

a second stackable line hanger configured to lock onto the stacking provision so as to support a second line.

46. (previously presented) The apparatus defined by claim 45, wherein the distal ends of the arms have barbs which are adapted to snap lock into different peripheral areas of said common opening and wherein the stacking provision comprises an opening.

47. (previously presented) The apparatus defined by claim 45, wherein the distal ends of the arms and the stacking provisions are structured such that wind-induced vibrations of the held lines is damped.

48. (previously presented) The apparatus defined by claim 47, wherein the opening in said first hanger is an aperture with a circular or other curved boundary.

49. (original) The apparatus defined by claim 48, wherein the aperture has a stiffening flange.

50. (previously presented) The apparatus defined by claim 48, wherein the distal ends of the arms have barbs with a cross-sectional curvature substantially matching a curvature of the boundary along an area of engagement with the aperture.

51. (cancelled)

52. (original) The apparatus defined by claim 50, wherein the hanger includes a snap-in stacking provision.

53. (previously presented) The apparatus defined by claim 52, wherein the snap-in stacking provision comprises an opening adapted to be engaged by another hanger of the snap-in type.

54. (original) The apparatus defined by claim 53, wherein the opening is an aperture with a circular or other curved boundary.

55. (original) The apparatus defined by claim 54, wherein the aperture has a stiffening flange.

56. (previously presented) The apparatus defined by claim 54, wherein the barbs have a cross-sectional curvature substantially matching a curvature of the boundary along an area of engagement with the aperture.

Claims 57-58 (cancelled)

59. (currently amended) A line hanger of a snap-in type having a generally U-shaped body with arms which grip a line, distal ends of which arms have barbs structured to snap-lock onto an edge of an opening in a line support, the hanger arms each having an outwardly extending brace which abuts an opposite surface of the edge from that engaged by a barb, the brace being rigid and structured to dig into, rather than slide along, the opposite surface when the hanger is side loaded; the brace having an out-turned side with a distal edge that makes point contact with the opposite surface when the hanger is side loaded; and

~~The apparatus defined by claim 58, wherein the brace having has an in-turned side with a distal edge which engages the opposite surface, the out-turned and in-turned sides of the brace stiffening the brace and widening its footprint on the opposite surface.~~

60. (currently amended) The apparatus defined by claim ~~59~~ 57, wherein the hanger includes a snap-in stacking provision.

61. (previously presented) The apparatus defined by claim 60, wherein the snap-in stacking provision comprises an opening adapted to be engaged by another hanger of the snap-in type.

62. (cancelled)

63. (currently amended) A line hanger of a snap-in type having a generally U-shaped body with arms which grip a line, distal ends of which arms have barbs structured to snap-lock onto an edge of an opening in a line support, the hanger arms each having rigid means structured to abut an opposite surface of the edge from that engaged by a barb and create a fixed pivot point or line for the hanger when side loaded ~~The apparatus defined by claim 62, wherein the hanger includes a snap-in stacking provision.~~

64. (previously amended) The apparatus defined by claim 63, wherein the snap-in stacking provision comprises an opening adapted to be engaged by another hanger of the snap-in type.

65. (currently amended) A line hanger of a snap-in type having a generally U-shaped body with arms which grip a line, distal ends of which arms have barbs structured to snap-lock onto an edge of an opening in a line support, the hanger arms each having an outwardly extending brace which abuts an opposite surface of the edge from that engaged by a barb, the brace being rigid and structured to dig into, rather than slide along, the opposite surface when the hanger is side loaded, ~~The apparatus defined by claim 57 wherein said barb has an integral strengthening rib.~~

Claims 66-69 (cancelled)

70. (previously presented) A hanger for a transmission line or other elongated article, comprising a generally U-shaped body having a retention section adapted to engage the article, from which section extends a pair of legs, distal ends of which legs being structured to lock into an opening in a support structure, said legs each having between said retention section and said

distal end an extension section which substantially increases a length of the leg and flexes during insertion to decrease an insertion force required to insert the hanger into said opening, said U-shaped body having a stacking provision in the closed end of the body.

Claims 70-71. (cancelled)